

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 217

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 212th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 20, 2006

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.

District 7 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblywoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

District 15 (Mercer)

Assemblyman JEFF VAN DREW

District 1 (Cape May, Atlantic and Cumberland)

Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD

District 6 (Camden)

Assemblyman JOHN F. MCKEON

District 27 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Epps, Gordon, Connors, Stack, Fisher, Vas,

Assemblywomen Lampitt, Vainieri Huttie, Assemblyman Albano, Senators

Vitale, Buono, T.Kean, Karcher, Allen, Madden and Turner

SYNOPSIS

Memorializes Congress and president to provide sufficient federal funding for State Children's Health Insurance Program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee on June 7, 2007, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/22/2007)

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** memorializing Congress and the
 2 President of the United States to provide sufficient federal
 3 funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

4
 5 **WHEREAS**, The health of our children is of paramount importance
 6 to the families of our State; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Poor child health is a threat to the educational
 8 achievement and the social and psychological well-being of the
 9 children of our State; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Protecting the health of our children is essential to the
 11 well-being of our youngest citizens and the quality of life in our
 12 State; and

13 **WHEREAS**, The NJ FamilyCare Program, which has enrolled over
 14 125,000 uninsured children since its original inception in 1998,
 15 is an integral part of the arrangements for health benefits for the
 16 children of this State; and

17 **WHEREAS**, In 2005, there were still ¹**[some 235,000]** more than
 18 250,000¹ uninsured children in New Jersey; and

19 **WHEREAS**, This Legislature recognizes the value of the NJ
 20 FamilyCare Program in preserving child wellness, preventing
 21 and treating childhood disease, improving health outcomes, and
 22 reducing overall health costs; and

23 **WHEREAS**, The federal funding available from the State Children's
 24 Health Insurance Program for the NJ FamilyCare Program is
 25 indispensable to providing health benefits for children of modest
 26 means throughout this State; and

27 ¹**[WHEREAS**, The major federal funding shortfall that exists in the
 28 State Children's Health Insurance Program in this fiscal year
 29 will affect New Jersey more than most states because it has been
 30 successful in maximizing federal funds for the program; and]¹

31 **WHEREAS**, The State Children's Health Insurance Program is to be
 32 reauthorized ¹**[next]** this¹ year¹**[**, which could result in further
 33 restrictions on funding and eligibility for the program]¹; now,
 34 therefore,

35
 36 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
 37 Jersey (the Senate concurring):

- 38
 39 1. This Legislature:
 40 a. respectfully memorializes the United States Congress and the
 41 President of the United States to: ¹**[address the current major**
 42 federal funding shortfall in the State Children's Health Insurance
 43 Program by providing additional funds to support all children
 44 enrolled in the program;]¹ provide full funding in future fiscal years

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
 not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SHH committee amendments adopted June 7, 2007.

1 to allow all states to continue to increase enrollment in the State
2 Children's Health Insurance Program without reducing Medicaid
3 funding to cover the costs of such an expansion; and allow the
4 states flexibility in determining who is eligible for the State
5 Children's Health Insurance Program when it is reauthorized;

6 b. urges the Governor to use his best efforts to work with the
7 members of the Congress elected from this State to ensure that
8 sufficient federal funding is provided to New Jersey in a timely
9 manner to support further expansion in enrollment for uninsured
10 children and their parents, and to provide meaningful assistance to
11 help identify and enroll children who qualify for Medicaid or NJ
12 FamilyCare; and

13 c. asserts that all components of State government should work
14 together with educators, health care providers, social workers, and
15 parents to ensure that all available public and private assistance for
16 providing health benefits to uninsured children in this State is
17 utilized to the maximum extent possible.

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19 2. Duly authenticated copies of this concurrent resolution,
20 signed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
21 General Assembly and attested by the Secretary of the Senate and
22 the Clerk of the General Assembly, shall be transmitted to the
23 presiding officers of the United States Congress, each of the
24 members of the Congress elected from the State of New Jersey, the
25 President of the United States, and the Governor.